

POISON IVY  
*Rhus radicans*  
(*Toxicodendron radicans*)

Found along the edge of coastal and inland wetlands throughout the Division. Although THIS PLANT IS NOT A WETLAND PLANT it is one of the commonest upland plants found on the edge of coastal marshes and, therefore, often indicates the terminal point of the wetland. It is included here as a caution to field investigators. DO NOT TOUCH - It is extremely poisonous! Its poisonous oils can be transmitted by touch, and through contact with water or smoke, and can cause a severe skin reaction.

A woody vine with many aerial, clinging rootlets or as in coastal varieties a bushy shrub. Each leaf is composed of 3 leaflets; attached to the stem by a stalk. Leaflets are oval with pointed tips; may be hairy beneath; without teeth or with few teeth or wavy edges; the two lateral leaflets are stalkless or short-stalked; the end leaflet is stalked. The green flowers are located in clusters along the stem; bloom from May to July. The fruit in similar clusters; brownish grey or white; ripening in August to November and may remain on the stem during the winter. This plant also known as Poison Oak, Trailing or Climbing Sumac, Mercury, and others is highly variable in leaf form. It is recommended that contact with all







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3-leaved, bushy plants or vines be avoided.

Although hazardous to humans, the seeds are important as food for many upland gamebirds and songbirds, especially during winter months. In addition, rodents, bear, muskrat, rabbit and mule deer graze on the leaves, stems and seeds.